



Milwaukee County Board

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., 16th District

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, 4th District

Supervisor Patricia Jursik, 8th District

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For Immediate Release

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SUPPORT FOR GREAT LAKES COMPACT GAINS MOMENTUM AT COUNTY BOARD

Parks Committee supports agreement; Supervisors urge State and Federal lawmakers to approve

Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee County Board’s Parks, Energy & Environment Committee voted 6-0 today to advance a resolution supporting the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

Several Supervisors, including sponsor John Weishan, Jr., believe the compact can be strengthened to better protect Wisconsin residents whose lives and livelihoods depend on the Great Lakes. “The world’s largest source of fresh surface water is right here on our doorstep. It is our duty to protect it,” Supervisor Weishan said. “Long-term consumption and diversion of this water can have a significant impact on both our environment and our economy.” Board Chairman Lee Holloway, along with Supervisors Marina Dimitrijevic, Gerry Broderick and Patricia Jursik, are co-sponsoring the resolution.

Suggested improvements mentioned in the resolution include:

- Requiring measurable, meaningful water conservation practices.
- Requiring environmentally responsible return of diverted water.
- Closing the bottled water loophole that would let multinational corporations profit from public water resources by allowing diversions one bottle at a time.
- Setting permit and monitoring standards for large water users within the Great Lakes basin
- Maintaining the integrity of the Great Lakes watershed by establishing fixed community boundaries.
- Assuring an open, public approval process for diversions requests and provide public enforcement options.

The Compact is not binding until ratified by the legislatures of each Great Lakes State and approved by the U.S. Congress. “I hope Governor Jim Doyle, the Wisconsin Legislature and Congress approve a strengthened Great Lakes Compact in a timely fashion,” Supervisor Dimitrijevic said. “By implementing these additional improvements, we can more effectively protect and manage Great Lakes basin waters.”

“The ecosystem in our Great Lakes has already been damaged,” Supervisor Jursik added. “We must take responsibility for this damage and take steps to become responsible stewards of our fresh water resources. The Compact is the beginning of this stewardship.”

The entire Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will consider the resolution at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 20.

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